

REPORT

50X1-HUM

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTACT

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DATE PREPARED 28 September 1951

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. A troop train en route from Erfurt toward Gotha (L 51/J 36) on 12 August 1951, was loaded with artillery pieces and trucks [redacted] Another troop train en route from Gotha toward Eisenach (L 51/H 76) on the same day was also loaded with artillery pieces and trucks [redacted] (1)
2. A mixed unit, which passed through Gotha during the night of 10 September, coming from the direction of Erfurt and proceeding toward Ohrdruf-Georgenthal, consisted of 74 T-34 tanks, 20 light AT guns and 30 heavy AT guns. The light AT guns were 45-mm and were towed by trucks [redacted] 50X1-HUM The heavy AT guns were of about 85-mm and towed by caterpillar tractors. (2)
3. Between 1 and 11 September, about 300 Soviet soldiers bivouacked in a patch of woods between Emleben and Georgenthal on the Gotha-Georgenthal railroad line. Mortars and trucks [redacted] 50X1-HUM were observed with the troops.
4. Trucks [redacted] in the Gotha area between 1 and 10 September 1951 [redacted] (3)
5. Prior to 10 September, the Soviet troop units in the area bivouacked at the troop training grounds and in woods. The activities of the troops thereafter, which included intensive air activity, indicated a movement of the troops. From 6 to 9 fighter planes were observed aloft at all times. They probably landed at Kindel.
6. Artillery units with 122-mm guns were seen moving through Gotha toward Ohrdruf and Kindel during the early part of the night of 11 September. Caterpillar tractors observed with the troops [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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- [redacted] and trucks [redacted] (4)
7. Tanks [redacted] were detrained at the Ohrdruf railroad station on 21 August. Tank [redacted] was seen moving from Cramwinkel to Ohrdruf on 22 August. Tank [redacted] was subsequently observed at Ohrdruf. (5)

[redacted] Comments.

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- (1) [redacted] the first train carried headquarters units of the XXX Gds Ltz Rifle Corps, and the second train an artillery component of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from Jena.
- (2) The vehicles observed in connection with light AT guns have also been repeatedly seen in Naumburg with heavy AT guns. The whole column may have consisted of components of the 57th Gds Ltz Rifle Div.
- (3) Two of the vehicles belong to army and corps headquarters units of the Eighth Gds Army, 5 to the 20th Gds Mecz Div, 1 to the 39th Gds Ltz Rifle Div, 7 to the 21st Gds Mecz Div, and 5 to the 57th Gds Ltz Rifle Div.
- (4) The vehicles belong to an unidentified AT artillery unit in Gera and Kersburg.
- (5) The intensified traffic of military columns observed in the Gotha-Ohrdruf areas during the first half of September 1951 indicates that the divisions of the Eighth Gds Army also held field exercises at regimental level at that time. Similar observations were made at other troop training grounds in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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